Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-06 DHA-02 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IGA-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 /092 W

-----021712Z 026664 /45

R 012236Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5445

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EWWT GT

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN DISCRIMINATORY MARITIME LEGISLATION

- 1. GUATEMALAN MINISTER OF ECONOMY GUIROLA BATRES CALLED IN PRESIDENT AND TWO OTHER OFFICERS OF AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOLD THEM PRESIDENT LAUGERUD GREATLY DISTURBED ABOUT DETERIORATION GUATEMALAN/US RELATIONS AS RESULT OFSUS ACTIONS IN SEVERAL FIELDS. HE SAID PRESIDENT WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT MARITIME PROBLEM, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND ASKED AMCHAM HELP ON OBTAINING DELAY OR MODERATION OF FMC ACTION ON MARITIME DISPUTE.
- 2. AMCHAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS DESIRES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO GUIROLA. IT IS IN PROCESS OF CONSULTING WITH ITS OWN MEMBERSHIP AND WITH GUATEMALAN ORGANIZATIONS AND SHIPPING CIRCLES ON WHAT POSITION TO TAKE. AMCHAM DELEGATION EXPTED TO CALL ON GUIROLA SHORTLY WITH REPLY.
- 3.WE UNDERSTAND RESPONSE TO MINISTER MAY INCLUDE A CHAMBER UNDERTAKING TO PRESENT CASE IN WASHINGTON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR FURTHER DELAY IN FMC ACTION. HOWEVER, AMCHAM IS LIKELY TO SUGGEST TO MINECON THAT DELAY CAN BE EFFECTIVELY OBTAINED ONLY IF PREMISED ON ACTUAL REVISION OF DECREE 41-71 OR ACCEPTANCE OF FMC 80-20 FORMULA.

4. AMCHAM WILL ATTEMPT AVOID COMMENT ON MILITARY

ASSISTANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS IF THEY ARE RAISED AGAIN BYSGUIROLA. INFORMA SESSION OF REGIONAL AMCHAMS HELD MANAGUA EARLIER THIS WEEK REPORTEDLY CAME TO CONCUSION THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ADOPT ANY POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. BOSTER

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Message Attributes

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